New Haven Jan 21st 1834.

My dear brother Garrison:

I wrote you a letter about a fortnight since enclosing $2.00 for the present year of the "Liberator", sent it to N. York by Br Jennison to the care of P. A. Nick, & as I have not seen it acknowledged in your weekly "list", I have had doubts whether it has yet been received. I suppose it will come to hand however, sooner or later. My files of the Liberator for the past year will not be complete, until I receive Nos. 17. 18. 22. 23. 34. 42 which I hope your kindness will prompt you to send forthwith, that my library may soon be adorned with another volume of exceeding value. It is a source of great regret to me that I was unable to attend the annual meeting of our dear New England Society, whose interests lie so near my heart. The course of that Society I am persuaded must be onward - and with prudence energy and prayer on the part of its Officers &

and supporters it will be so.- The aspect of the cause at large at the present time seems to me to be exceedingly propitious - The formation of the National Society is an event of inestimable importance. It has given an impulse to Anti Slavery principles which will tell on all our subsequent efforts - If that Society is managed as it should be, in an open, humble manner its influence must be great, and its effects such as shall cause a thrill of joy in the bosom of every patriot and Christian - That Society ought to take the lead, but while it presses forward to the accomplishment of its objects, the feelings and wishes of those first engaged in the cause ought to be fully understood and respected - Unless this is is the case, with such hearts as we all have, there will inevitably be dissension, and consequently defeat - In the present crisis of affairs, one false step -, one imprudent speech - may do an incalculable injury - I know that there is danger to be apprehended, from a spirit of jealousy between the brethren at Boston & New York - How anxious we should be to repress the first risings of that foe - It seems to me, at present, better to forego a thousand advantages, to endure many disagreeable things, than to indulge a spirit so pregnant with evil. - I know the men in New York well enough to be persuaded of this, that

they are determined to "go ahead" - to make way sacrifice that they are "good men & true" - and moreover that they wish naturally desire to rule - The only way to proceed then, for the sake of harmony and peace, is to give in to some of their notions, & pursue steadily what is right in our own eyes. - These remarks apply to the relations between the two societies - My constant prayer while ever be, that they may move together shoulder to shoulder, whatever pains may be felt by pride - however much the rights of primogeniture may be assailed. - And now do not be offended, if I exercise the rights of a sincere friend and presume to speak of your own business. Call me intrusive if you will - but suffer me to speak - I have heard of the embarrassments of the Liberator - I have heard of your doings in New York with the Executive Committee and but for one thing, I longed to be at your side & say God bless you. I admire your firmness - I praise God that the Liberator was not sacrificed - and God grant to prevent it that it never may be - if it was in my power it never should be - for it is our strong tower - its our heaviest ordnance - a terror to evil doers and a praise to them that do well - but I regret your resignation of the office of Secretary of Foreign affairs - deeply regret it - and on this subject I feel free to speak - but faithfully sub-rosa - Perhaps however I do not fully understand all your

strong reasons— I will give you succinctly the history of that office— When the committee to form a constitution &c. Mr. Sherfield & were about to retire— I had reason to suppose that the form of constitution which they had in their hands provided but one Secretary to the Society— I knew two what was to be the management about that office— that Br. Wright was to fill it, and that he the mouth of all Anti-Slavery men in the U.S. This did not exactly suit me— I knew your claims— I knew too that you would be placed on the Board of Managers or as a Vice President, in other words would be a second fiddle— & this did not suit me— I did hold on the committee, & urged & entreated them to create the office to which you were subsequently appointed— I used all the little influence which I had with them— to procure the insertion in the draft of the constitution, of that office & have reason to suppose, that they were influenced by my exertions— I remember distinctly telling them, or some of them, that if there was no office for you to fill, or for which you were calculated, one ought to be and must be made. I regarded the office of Foreign Secretary as one of great importance to our cause— No other cause is situated as ours is— connected with our friends in England as we are by a thousand ties— I supposed too that you had this

sufficient to ja[illegible]
I had no idea [illegible]
insane hospital would ha[illegible]
about and lecturing – I supp[illegible]
Ex. Com, & that you would dec[illegible]
trust your person amid all the [illegible]
ment that prevails against you:– and when [illegible]
of their propositions to you I was grieved – amazed
angry.– If they insisted upon your resignation
of the editorial chair – and upon your running – you
did exactly right in stirring up your situation –
But it appears to me they might have been reasoned
out of it – How could they expect you to be all
the Foreign business of the Society and employ yourself
in roaming about? – There is nothing inconsistent in
editing the Liberator and conducting the correspondence
of the Am. A.S.S.; they might both be done – And this
I think, with all deference, you ought to do – Allow
me to suggest the propriety of making this proposition
to the Committee –

5a

you disconnected

upon it - pray ever it.

I have indulged - you know

wept me - The best feelings of

and you & those dear brethren who

the Anti Slavy cause - Shall I ask you

my candor - and what may appear to be vanity -

you know me too well to impugn my motives. - Be sure

to write to me and let me know your feelings - circumstances

and determinations - When the Annual Report is out, send

one immediately for I want to use it - Remember me to

all the dear brethren - especially to friend Knapp, to Sewall

and to Child - Take hold of Child & thank him heartily

for his Speech on the "Despotism of Freedom"

Let me still retain a place in your esteem

and believe me to be -

Your friend & brother

Robt Bernard Hall

Unless something unusually urgent occurs - be sure I write -